

the Governor of the state a copy of the report, and a series of resolutions adopted by the Legislature at its recent session, urging the work upon the attention of Congress, which I ask leave also now to introduce. It will be seen, by a perusal of that report, that no doubt is entertained by the engineer, of its practicability, and that the Legislature has concurred in that opinion. But as this Government is requested to undertake it, I have presumed that a survey by its own officers would be more satisfactory to Congress, and more likely to ensure their favorable action on the subject, and therefore have brought forward at present, only a proposition of survey. If by that, it shall be again ascertained—as I doubt not that it will—that the work may be accomplished at a reasonable expense, there can be no hesitation, I apprehend, in commencing it at once.

Mr. G. said, before he sat down he would remark that this proposition had no connexion with that system of internal improvement which, under too loose a construction of the Constitution, had been formerly undertaken by Congress, but was since happily abandoned. The contemplated work was strictly within the power over commerce which had been delegated to the General Government, and which made it a corresponding duty of that Government to give to it all proper facilities, and relieve it from embarrassments such as he had shown to exist in that of the Albermarle, and which had been estimated to be equal to a levy of from 15 to 20 per cent on all exports. Had North Carolina not become a member of the Union, the opening of this inlet would have been forced upon her by the just demands of her people. Had she now the power to “lay duties” of tonnage, or “imposts” on merchandise, a moderate rate of levies for twelve months after its completion would defray the entire expense of effecting it.

On motion of Mr. G. the resolutions of the General Assembly of North Carolina, and the report of Major Gwynn, were ordered to be printed, and referred, with the bill, to the Committee on Commerce.